

His Majesties
MOST GRACIOUS
S P E E C H.
Together with the
Lord Chancellors,
To Both Houses of Parliament.

To which is added,
His Lordships severall **S P E E C H E S;**

As also, those of
Sir JOB CHARLETON,

At his admission of Speaker to the Honourable
HOUSE of COMMONS.

Delivered at the Opening of the Parliament, on Tuesday February 4.
And Wednesday Morning 5. 1671.

By his Majesties Special Command.



LONDON,
Printed by the Assignes of **JOHN ABLE** and **CHRISTOPHER BARKER**, Printers
to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1671.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

His Majesties
 MOST GRACIOUS
 SPEECH
 T. O. G. W. H. S.
 Lord Chancellors
 To Both Houses of Parliament
 To which is added
 His Lordships several SPEECHES;
 As also, those of
 Sir J. CHARLTON
 As his admission of Speaker to the Honourable
 HOUSE of COMMONS.
 Delivered at the Opening of the Parliament, on Tuesday, January 4.
 And Wednesday January 5. 1693.
 By His Majesties Special Command.



LONDON,
 Printed by the Author of John Bull and Charles II. at the
 to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. in 1693.
 C. M. P. 1693.

His MAJESTIES Gracious Speech

To both Houses of PARLIAMENT.

Wednesday February 1672
My Lords and Gentlemen

Am glad to see you here this day; I
would have called you together sooner;
but that I was willing to Ease you and
the Country, till there were an abso-
lute necessity for it. I had I had
been forced to a most important, necessary and expensive
War, and I make no doubt but you will give Me suit-
able and effectual Assistance to go through with it. I
refer your loyalty to My Declaration for the Causes; and in-
deed the necessity of this War; and shall now only tell
you, That I might have digested the Indignities to My
Own Retownship; but have brought it to this Extre-
mity, if the Interest, as well as the Honour of the whole
Kingdom had not been at Stake. And if I had omitted
this Conjunction, perhaps I had not a given me with
the like Advantage.

You will find that the last Supply you gave Me, did
not answer Expectation for the Ends you gave it; The
payments of My Debts. Therefore I must in the next
place command them again to your especial Care.

Some few days before I Declared the War, I put forth
My Declaration for Indulgence to Dissenters, and have
hitherto found no good Effect of it. I by securing Peace at
Home, when I had War Abroad. There is one part in it

that hath been ~~subjected~~ ^{to} Indulgence, which is that concerning the Papists, as if more Liberty were granted them upon their Recusancy; but it is plain there is less. For the others have Publick places allowed them, and I never intended that they should have any, but onely have the Freedom of their Religion in their own houses, without any Comourse of others. And I could not Grant them less then this, when I had extended so much more Grace to others, most of them having been Loyal and in the Service of Me, and of the King my Father: And in the whole Course of this Indulgence, I do not intend that it shall any way Prejudice the Church, but I will Support its Rights: And It in its full Power. Having said this, I shall take it very ill to receive Contradiction in what I have said. And I will deal plainly with you, I am resolved to stick to my Decretalions.

There is one Jealousie more, that is maliciously spread abroad, and yet so weak and frivolous, that I once thought it not of almost enough to mention: but it may have gotten some ground with some well minded people, and that is; That the Forces I have raised in the War, were designed to Control Law and Property. I wish I had had more Forces the last Summer, the want of them then convinced me I must raise more against the next Spring: And I do not doubt but you will Consider the Charge of them in your Supplies.

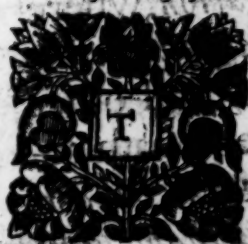
I will Conclude with this assurance to you, That I will preserve the true Reformed Protestant Religion, and the Church as it is now Established in this Kingdom, and that no mans Property or Liberty shall ever be invaded.

I leave the rest to the Chancellor.

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THE
Lord Chancellors
S P E E C H.

*My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens and Burgeses
of the House of Commons.*



He King hath spoken so fully, so excellently well, and so like Himself, that you are not to expect much from me. There is not a word in His Speech that hath not its *full weight*: And, I dare with assurance say, will have its *effect* with you. His Majesty had called you sooner, and His Affairs required it, but that He was resolved to give you all the ease, and vacancy to your own private Concerns; and the People as much respite from Payments and Taxes, as the necessity of His Business, or their Preservation would permit. And yet (which I cannot but here mention to you) by the Crafty insinuations of some ill
B affected

(6)

affected persons, there have been spread strange and desperate *rumours*, which your Meeting together this day, hath sufficiently proved both malicious, and false.

His Majesty hath told you, that He is now engaged in an important, very expensive, and indeed a *War* absolutely necessary, and unavoidable. He hath referred you to His *Declaration*, where you will find the *Personal indignities* by *Pictures*, and *Medals*, and other *publique affronts*, His Majesty hath received from the *States*, their *breach of Treaties* both in the *Surinam*, and *East-India* business: and at last they came to that height of insolence, as to deny the honour and right of the *Flag*, though an undoubted Jewel of this Crown, never to be parted with, and by them particularly owned, in the late Treaty of *Breda*, and never contested in any age. And whilst the King first long expected, and then solemnly demanded *Satisfaction*, they disputed His title to it in all the *Courts of Christendom*, and made great offers to the *French King*, if he would stand by them
against

against us. But the *most Christian King* too well remembred what they did at *Munster*, contrary to so many Treaties, and solemn Ingagements; and how dangerous a neighbour they were to all *Crowned heads*.

The *King* and His *Ministers* had here a hard time, and lay every day under new *obloquies*. Sometimes they were represented as *selling* all to *France* for money, to make this *War*: *Portsmouth*, *Plimouth*, and *Hull*, were to be given into the *French* hands for Caution. The next day news came, that *France*, and *Holland* were agreed. Then the *obloquy* was turned from *treachery* to *folly*: The ministers were now *Fools*, that some days before were *Villains*. And indeed the *Coffee-houses* were not to be blamed for their last apprehensions; since if that *Conjunction* had taken effect, then *England* had been in a far worse case then now it is, and the *War* had been turned upon us. But *both Kings*, knowing their Interests, resolved to Joyn against them; who were the Common Enemies to all *Monarchies*, and I may say, especially
to

to ours, their onely Competitor for trade, and power at Sea; and who onely stand in their way to an *universal Empire*, as great as *Rome*. This the *States* understood so well, and had swallowed so deep, that under all their present distress, and danger, they are so intoxicated with that *vast ambition*, that they slight a *Treaty*, and refuse a *Cessation*.

All this you, and the whole Nation saw before the last *War*; but it could not then be so well *timed*, or our *alliances* so well made. But you judged a right, that at any rate, *Delenda est Carthago*, That *Government* was to be brought down. And therefore the *King* may well say to you, *Tis your War*. He took His *measures* from you, and they were *just*, and *right* ones: and He expects a suitable *assistance* to so necessary, and expensive an action; which He has hitherto maintained at His own charge, and was unwilling either to trouble you, or burden the Country, until it came to an *inevitable necessity*. And His Majesty commands me to tell you, that unless it be a *certain Sum*, and
speedily

speedily raised, it can never answer the Occasion.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Reputation is the great support of War or Peace. This *War* had never begun, nor had the *States* ever slighted the *King*, or ever refused Him *Satisfaction*, neither had this *War* continued to this day, or subsisted now, but that the *States* were deceived in their *measures*, and apprehended His *Majesty* in that great want of money, that He must sit down under any *affronts*, and was not able to begin, or carry on a *War*. Nay, at this day the *States* support themselves amongst their people by this only *fallshood*, that they are assured of the *temper* of *England*, and of the *Parliament*, and that You will not supply the *King* in this *War*. And that if they can hold out till your meeting, they will have new life, and may take new *measures*. There are lately taken, two of their principal *Agents*, with their *Credentials* and *Instructions* to this purpose, who are now in the *Tower*, and shall be proceeded against according to the *Law of Nations*. But the

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King

King is sufficiently assured of *His people* : Knows you better : and can never doubt *His Parliament*. This had not been mentioned, but to shew you of what importance the *frankness*, and *seasonableness* of this *Supply* is, as well as the *fulness* of it. Let me say, the King has brought the *States* to that condition, that your hearty conjunction, at this time, in *supplying* His Majesty, will make them never more formidable to Kings, or dangerous to *England*. And if after this you suffer them to get up, let this be remembered, The *States of Holland* are *Englands* eternal Enemy both by *interest*, and *inclination*.

In the next place, to the supply for the carrying on of the War, His Majesty recommends to you the taking care of His *Debts*. What you gave the last Session did not near answer *your own expectation*. Besides, an other considerable Aid you designed His Majesty, was *unfortunately lost in the birth*; so that the King was forced for the carrying on of His affairs, much against His will, to put a stop to the payments out of the *Exchequer*. He saw the *pressures*

*fu*res upon himself, and growing *incon-*
veniencies to His people by great inter-
 est; and the difference through all His
 Business between *Ready money*, and
Orders. This gave the King the neces-
 sity of that proceeding, to make use of
 His own Revenue, which hath been of
 so great effect in this War. But though
 he hath put a stop to the trade, and gain
 of the *Bankers*, yet he would be unwill-
 ing to ruine them, and oppress so ma-
 ny *Families*, as are concerned in those
 debts; Besides, it were too dispropor-
 tionable a burden upon many of His
 good Subjects. But neither the *Bank-*
ers, nor they, have reason to complain,
 if you now take them into your care,
 and they have paid them, what was due
 to them, when the Stop was made, with
Six per Cent interest from that time.
 The King is very much concerned
 both in *Honour*, and *Interest* to see this
 done. And yet he desires you not to
 mis-time it: but that it may have only
 the second place, and that you will first
 settle, what you intend about the *Sup-*
ply.

His Majesty has so fully vindicated
 His

His *Declaration* from that Calumny concerning the *Papists*, that no reasonable scruple can be made by any good man. He has sufficiently justified it by the time it was published in, and the effects He hath had from it; and might have done it more, from the agreeableness of it, to His own natural disposition, which no good *English* man can wish other then it is. He loves not bloud, or rigorous severities; but where *mild*, or gentle wayes may be used by a *wise Prince*, He is certain to choose them. The *Church of England*, and all good *Protestants* have reason to rejoyce in such a *Head*, and such a *Defender*. His Majesty doth declare His care, and concerns for the *Church*, and will maintain them in all their *rights* and *priviledges*, equal, if not beyond any of His *Predecessors*. He was born, and bred up in it: It was that His Father died for: We all know how great temptations and offers He resisted abroad, when He was in His lowest condition: And He thinks it the honour of His reign, that He hath been the *Restorer* of the *Church*: 'Tis that He will ever maintain, and hopes to leave

leave to posteritie, in greater *lustre*, and upon surer *grounds*, then our ancestors ever saw it. But His Majesty is not convinced that *violent ways* are the interest of *Religion* or the *Church*.

There is one thing more, that I am commanded to speak to you of, Which is the *jealousie*, that hath been foolishly spread abroad, of the forces the King hath raised in this War. Wherein the King hath *opened himself freely* to you, and confessed the fault on the other hand. For if this last Summer had not proved a *miracle of storms, and tempests*, such as secured their *East-India Fleet*, and protected their *Sea-coast* from a discent, nothing but the true reason (want of Money) could have justified the defect in the number of our forces. 'Tis that His Majesty is providing for against the next Spring, having given out *Orders* for the raising of seven or eight Regiments more of Foot, under the Command of Persons of the greatest *Fortunes* and *Quality*. And I am earnestly to recommend to you, that in your Supplies, you will take into your consideration this necessary *addition of charge*

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And

And after His Majesties conclusion of His Speech, let me conclude, may let us all conclude with blessing God, and the King. Let us bless God, that he hath given us such a King to be the *repairoer* of our *breaches* both in Church and State: and the *restorer* of our *paths* to dwell in: That in the midst of War and Misery, which rages in our neighbour Countries, our *garners* are full, and there is no complaining in our streets: And a man can hardly know that there is a War. Let us bless God, that hath given this King signally the hearts of His people, and most particularly of this Parliament, who in their affection and loyalty to their Prince, have exceeded all their predecessors. A Parliament with whom the King hath many years lived with all the *Caresses* of a happy Marriage. Has the King had a concern? You have wedded it. Has His Majesty wanted *Supplies*? You have readily, cheerfully, and fully provided for them. You have relied upon the *Wisdom* and *Conduct* of His Majestie in all His affairs: so that you have never attempted to exceed your bounds, or to impose

impose upon Him: whilst the King on the other hand, hath made Your Counsels the foundations of all His proceedings; and hath been so tender of you, that He hath upon His own revenue and credit, endeavoured to support even *foreign Wars*, that he might be least uneasy to you, or burdensome to His people. And let me say, that though this *Marriage* be according to *Moses's Law*, where the husband can give a bill of divorce, put her away, and take another: Yet I can assure you, it is as impossible for the King to part with this *Parliament*, as it is for you to depart from that *loyaltie, affection, and dutiful behaviour*, you have hitherto shewed towards Him.

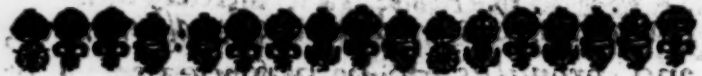
Let us bless the King for taking away all our fears, and leaving no room for jealousies: ~~For those assurances,~~ and promises He hath made us. Let us bless God and the King, that our Religion is safe: That the Church of England is the care of our Prince: That *Parliaments* are safe: That our Properties

Properties and Liberties are safe,
 What more hath a good *English* man
 to ask, but that *this King* may long
 reign, and that this Triple-alliance, of
King, Parliament, and People, may
 never be dissolved.



LONDON,

Printed by the Assigns of *John Bill* and *Christo-
 pher Barker*, Printers to the Kings Most
 Excellent Majesty, 1671.



THE LORD CHANCELLORS SPEECH.

Feb. 4. 1672.

*My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses
of the House of Commons.*

His Majesty hath commanded me to tell you, that he hath many things to say to you, but he thinks not this a proper time, but will defer it till the *House of Commons* be compleated with a new *Speaker*. For his Majesty hath since the last Session, as a mark of his Favour to his *House of Commons*, and that he might reward so good a *Servant*, taken their late *Speaker*, *Sr. Edward Turner*, to be Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and called him by Writ to be an assistant to this House. I am therefore commanded to acquaint you Gentlemen of the *House of Commons*, that it is the Kings pleasure you repair to your House, and Elect a *Discreet, Wise, and Learned man*, who after he hath been by you *Presented*, and that presentation by His Majesty admitted, shall then possess the office of your common Mouth and *Speaker*. And the King is pleased to be here to Morrow in the Afternoon, to receive the *Presentment* of him accordingly.

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Sir F O B

S P E E C H,
2701 February 1672. P 201

Molt Gracious Sovereign,

THe Knights, Citizens, and
Burgesses of the House of
Commons, in Obedience to
Your Royal Command, have proceed-
ed to the Choice of a Speaker.
They have among them many worthy
Persons, eminently qualified for
so great a Trust; yet with too favour-
able an eye have cast it upon me, who
am really conscious to my self of many
infirmities, rendering me much unfit for
so great an Employment. And al-
though my endeavours of excusing my
self before them, have not been suc-
cessful, yet they have been so Indul-
gent, as to permit me to continue my
endeavours therein before Your Ma-
jesties most piercing and discerning
Judgment.

The

The Veneration due to Majesty, which lodgeth in every Loyal Breast, makes it not an easie matter to speak before Your Majesty, at any time, or in any capacity; But to speak before Your Majesty in Your Exaltation, thus gloriously supported and attended, and that as Speaker of Your House of Commons, requires greater abilities then I can pretend to own; I am not also without fear, That the Publick Affairs, wherein Your Majesty and Your Kingdom, in this juncture of time, are so highly concerned, may receive detriment through my weakness.

I therefore with a plain humble heart, prostrate at Your Royal feet, beseech, That You will Command them to review what they have done, and to proceed to another Election.

The

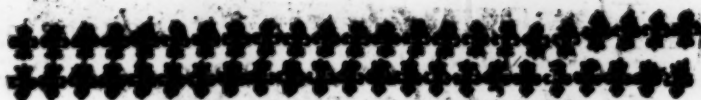
The Lord Chancellor's Speech,

Feb. 3. 1672.

Mr. Serjeant Charleton,

THe King hath very attentively heard your discreet and handsome Discourse whereby you endeavour to excuse and disable your self for the place of Speaker. In answer whereof his Majesty hath commanded me to say to you, That he doth in no sort admit of the same; For his Majesty hath had long experience of your Abilities, good Affection, Integrity and Resolution in several employments of great Trust and Weight. He knows you have been long a Parliament-man, and therefore every way fitted and qualified for the Employment: Besides, he cannot disapprove the Election of this house of Commons, especially where they have expressed so much duty in choosing one worthy and acceptable to him, And therefore the King doth allow of the Election, and admits you for Speaker.

Mr. Speaker



Mr. Speakers Speech,

Feb. 5. 1672.

Great S I R,

Since it is Your Gracious Pleasure not to accept of my humble Excuse, but by Your Royal Approbation to fix me under this Great, though Honourable Weight, and to think me fit to be invested with a Trust of so high a nature as this is.

I take it in the first place to be incumbent upon me, that I render Your Majesty all possible thanks, which I now humbly do with a heart full of all Duty, and affected with a deeper sense of Gratitude than I can find words to express.

Next, from Your Royal Determination in this Affair, whereby you have imprinted a new Character upon me, I take courage against my own confidence, and cheerfully bend my self with such strength and abilities as God shall give to the Service so graciously designed me; no way doubting, that Your Majesty will please to pardon my Frailties, to accept of my faithful Endeavours, and always to look favourably on the Work of Your own hands.

And now Sir, my first Entrance upon this Service, obliges me to make a few necessary, but humble Petitions on the behalf of Your most Loyal and Dutiful House of Commons.

1. That for our better Attendance on the Publick Service, we and our Servants may be free in our Persons and Estates from Arrests and other Disturbances.
2. That in our Debates, Liberty and Freedom of Speech be allowed us.
3. That as occasions shall require, Your Majesty upon our humble suit, and at such times as Your Majesty shall judge seasonable, will vouchsafe us access to Your Royal Person.
4. That all our Proceedings may receive a favourable Construction.

That God, who hath brought You back to the Throne of Your Fathers, and with You all our Comforts, grant You a long and a prosperous Reign, and send You Victory over all Your Enemies, and every good mans heart will say, Amen.

Feb. 5. 1672.

THe Kings Majesty hath heard and well weighed your *short* and *Eloquent Oration*; And in the first place much approves that you have with so much advantage, introduced a *shorter way of speaking* upon this occasion: His Majesty doth well accept of all those *dutiful* and *affectionate* expressions in which you have delivered your *Submission* to his Royal pleasure; And looks upon it as a *good Omen* to his affairs, and as an Evidence that the *House of Commons* have still the same *Heart*, that have chosen such a *Mouth*. The conjuncture of time, and the King and Kingdoms affairs require *such a House of Commons, such a Speaker*; for with reverence to the holy Scripture upon this occasion the King may say, *He that is not with me is against me*; for he that doth not now put his *Hand* and *Heart* to *Support* the King in the common cause of this Kingdom, can hardly ever hope for such another *opportunity*, or find a time to make satisfaction for the *Omission of this*.

Next, I am commanded by his Majesty to answer your four Petitions, whereof the first being; *The freedoms of you and your Servants in your Persons and Estates;*

Estates, without arrest or other disturbance, the King is graciously pleased to grant it as full as to any of your Predecessors.

The Second for Liberty and Freedom of Speech, the Third for access to his Royal person. And the Fourth, that your proceedings may receive a Favourable construction, are all freely and fully granted by his Majesty.

LONDON.

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